



Alaska Interagency  
Coordination Center



# Morning Highlights

July 25, 2009  
Morning Highlights 2009-40  
Time: 2:00 pm

Contact:  
Public Affairs (907) 356-5511  
Report Fires: (800) 237-3633

## Wildland Fire Update

Three new fires and one false alarm were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Friday. The **Slokhenjikh Fire** is a lightning caused fire located in the Tanana Zone, discovered during a detection flight. Estimated at 2 acres, the fire is burning in tundra and black spruce in a limited management area. It is currently in monitor status. The **Toolo Fire** is a lightning caused fire in a limited management area in the Galena Zone. Estimated at 4 acres, the fire is smoldering in brush with no active perimeter. The fire remains unstaffed and in monitor status. The **Old Valdez Trail Fire** is a human caused fire off the Cow Pie and Old Vadez Trail in the Fairbanks Area critical management area. DOF engines, helitack and an air tanker responded to suppress the fire estimated at .8 acres. The Fairbanks #4 Type 2 crew was assigned to the fire. The **Shooting Range Fire** was a false alarm reported in the Copper River Area. A local resident reported an unattended burn barrel, and no wildlands are involved.

As of 9 am Saturday, the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center had tallied 444 fires and **1,448,000.4** acres burned this year. 16 fires are staffed and 70 fires are active across Alaska. At this time last year, 329 fires had burned 79,369.3 acres.

**Fire Growth:** The Wood River 1 Fire, about 27 miles south of Fairbanks, grew from 38,000 acres to 45,000 acres. The fire was reported as 50 percent active with growth primarily to the north and northeast. There was a significant run to the north with crowning and group torching observed. One load of smokejumpers was deployed to conduct a burning operation and mop-up around structures located to the west and south of the fire along the Wood River. The fire continues to be managed for resource protection.

The Railbelt Complex includes the Minto Flats South Fire at 256,511 acres, the Lunch Lake Fire at 12,802 acres, and the June Creek Fire at 164 acres. There was significant fire activity on the complex reported Friday. There are 108 fire personnel on the Minto Flats South Fire protecting structures and allotments along the Tanana River and the Arctic Wolf drill rig site. The Chena IHC is constructing direct attack fireline along the southeast corner of the fire to protect structures along the Teklanika River. One load of smokejumpers was deployed to Dune Lake due to activity on the fire's southern perimeter. They are working on structure protection. There are 132 personnel on the Lunch Lake fire, currently working to protect allotments and timber values to the north and east. There are no personnel assigned to the June Creek Fire, and the fire remains in monitor status. Fire activity within the Wood River 1 Fire

and the Railbelt Complex is expected to persist, and smoke will continue to drift into Fairbanks and interior communities.

The Little Black 1 Fire grew from 177,000 acres to 197,000, with 55 personnel staffing the fire, including the Midnight Sun IHC and Venetie #2 Crew.

The Zitziana Fire grew from 100,486 acres to 104,476 acres and smokejumpers have implemented cabin protection measures and protective burnouts at Wien, West Twin and Wilderness Lakes. A cabin protection burning operation is also likely at Blind Luck Lake, staffed by 2 smokejumpers and 3 rappellers. Weather conditions are generally expected to remain warm and dry across interior Alaska into next week. Isolated thunderstorms are expected across a portion of northern interior.

#### **Fire Information Phone Numbers:**

For updated information about the **Wood River 1** Fire near Fairbanks, call **907-388-7526**.

For updated information about the **Railbelt Complex fires** which includes the Minto Flats South Fire, Lunch Lake Fire and the June Creek Fire, call the Fire Information Office at **907-378-3843**. The Incident Command Post is located at the Nenana Airport. Additional information about the fire is being posted at: [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org).

For updated information about the Shanta Creek fire, contact the Kenai Refuge at **907-262-7021** or the Alaska Division of Forestry at **907-260-4262**. Fire information is posted at [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org) and <http://kenai.fws.gov>. Email can be addressed to [r7shanta@fws.gov](mailto:r7shanta@fws.gov).

For updated information about the Chakina Fire, call the Chakina Fire Information Office at **907-529-0511** or the National Park Service Office in Anchorage at **907-644-3414**. Email for the Chakina Fire may be sent to: [ChakinaFireInfo@gmail.com](mailto:ChakinaFireInfo@gmail.com). Fire information is also posted at [www.nps.gov/wrst/parkmgmt/firemanagement.htm](http://www.nps.gov/wrst/parkmgmt/firemanagement.htm)

News releases, the daily Situation Report and additional information about these and other fires in Alaska, including maps, are posted or available at:  
**<http://fire.ak.blm.gov>**

**A Red Flag Warning** is in effect through 6 p.m. Sunday for strong winds in the Deltana and Tanana Flats.

**A Fire Weather Watch** for strong winds is in effect from Sunday morning through Sunday afternoon for the central interior, middle Tanana Valley, Upper Tanana Valley and Fortymile country, Denali and the Eastern Alaskan Range. Specific information about the Red Flag Warnings and weather can be found at: <http://afshome/predsvcs/weather.php>

### Staffed Fires

Fire Name	Approx. Location	Acres Burned	Fire Personnel
<b>Railbelt Complex</b>			Type 3 Incident Mgt. Team
			Chena Hotshots
			Fairbanks #2 Type 2 crew
			Fairbanks #3 Type 2 crew
			Delta #2
			USFS Interagency Type 2
			Upper Tanana #5 Type 2
<b><i>Fires in Complex</i></b>			142 personnel in Complex
Minto Flats South	12 mi west of Nenana	256,511 acres	108 personnel
Lunch Lake	20 mi. NW of Nenana	12,802 acres	132 personnel
June Creek	21 miles NW of Healy	164 acres	
<b>Other Fires</b>			
Wood River 1	27 mi. S of Fairbanks	45,000 acres	12 personnel
Sheenjek	46 mi. NE of Ft. Yukon	45,930 acres	21 personnel
			Ft. Yukon #3 Type 2 crew
Rock Slough	50 mi. NE of Ft. Yukon	24,500 acres	109 personnel
			Beaver/Stevens Village Type 2 crew
			Allakaket #2 Type 2 crew
			North Star Type 2 crew
			St. Michaels Type 2 crew
Little Black One	18 mi. NE of Circle	197,000 acres	55 personnel
			Venetie #2 Type 2 crew
			Midnight Sun Hotshots
Bear Creek	58 mi. W of Healy	46,959.8 acres	4 personnel
Zitziana	53 mi. W of Anderson	104,476 acres	37 personnel
Muskeg Creek	92 mi. SW of McGrath	43.5 acres	30 personnel
			Yukon Type 2IA crew
Chakina	13 mi. S of McCarthy	31,327 acres	89 personnel
			Augusta Hotshots
			Pioneer Peak Hotshots

Fire Name	Approx. Location	Acres Burned	Fire Personnel
Shanta Creek	Off Funny River Road Kenai	13,221 acres	5 personnel
Broken Snowshoe	3 mi. N of McGrath	25,345 acres	17 personnel
Big Creek	60 mi. SW of Ft. Yukon	5,550 acres	9 personnel
Galena VOR	4 mi. E of Galena	11 acres	4 personnel

Air Quality information for the Fairbanks North Star Borough is posted at: <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/>. For July 25 at 11 am, the air quality was reported as moderate due to smoke from wildland fires.

To learn about protecting yourself from smoke, visit:  
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>

For daily fire information, please visit:  
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf> and for a map of fire locations, click on "Fire Information" at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>

### Additional References

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
  - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
  - Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
  - National Fire Situation: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
  - Guide to Wildland Fire Suppression in AK:  
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/psa/Media%20Guide%20to%20AK%20Wildland%20Fire%20Suppression.pdf>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group- Education and Reference Materials:  
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Creating Defensible Space: <http://firewise.org/> and  
<http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/06Firewise.pdf>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info):  
(907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>  
Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns):  
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: [www.muni.org/fire](http://www.muni.org/fire)
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

*AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Mike McMillan (Alaska Fire Service) and Doug Stockdale (BLM Alaska Fire Service).*

###